

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 EB-11 COME-00 FBIE-00 L-03

H-03 PRS-01 SCCT-02 DRC-01 SY-03 EUR-25 USSS-00

TRSE-00 /074 W

----- 009773

P R 191140Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5689

INFO DOD DIA WASHDC

USCINCSO

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, AR (SAMUELSON, VICTOR)

SUBJ: SAMUELSON KIDNAPPING

1. AT LEAST 5 DAYS HAVE PASSED SINCE ESSO TURNED OVER \$14.2 MILLION DOLLAR RANSOM TO THE ERP. AS OF 1600 MAR 18 TO BEST OF EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE THERE IS STILL NO DEFINITE WORD AS TO THE FATE OF AMCIT VICTOR SAMUELSON, THE ESSO EXECUTIVE KIDNAPPED ON DEC 6. FBIS CARRIED A REPORT THAT HE WAS RELEASED BUT A RELIABLE SOURCE DENIES THIS.

2. FEDERAL POLICE HAVE INDICATED THEY WANT A STATEMENT FROM SAMUELSON BEFORE HE LEAVES THE COUNTRY, SOMETHING WHICH ESSO WILL PROBABLY TRY TO AVOID. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS GOA OFFICIALS INTEND TO INVESTIGATE THE LEGALITY OF THE WAY IN WHICH THE MONEY ENTERED THE COUNTRY.

3. COMMENT: THE GOA AND ESPECIALLY THE FEDERAL POLICE ARE SENSITIVE (AS THEY HAVE BEEN IN PREVIOUS KIDNAPPINGS) TO THE FACT THAT THE COMPANY DID NOT WORK WITH OR EVEN CONTACT THE AUTHORITIES. THE INCREDIBLY LARGE RANSOM,
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NOW AVAILABLE FOR SUBVERSIVE PURPOSES, HAS ONLY SERVED TO

HEIGHTEN THIS SENSITIVITY AND COULD WELL CREATE PROBLEMS
FOR ESSO WITH THE GOA.

4. YVES ROISSET, A FRENCH CITIZEN AND PEUGEOT EXECUTIVE
ALSO WAS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN RELEASED. THE FRENCH ALSO
DID NOT WORK THROUGH OR CONTACT THE AUTHORITIES.

5. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE NO FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN OTHER THAN
SAMUELSON NOW ARE IN THE HANDS OF KIDNAPPERS. AMONG THE
FEW ARGENTINES BEING HELD AT PRESENT ARE COL. CRESPO
(SINCE NOV 7) AT LT COL IBARZABAL (SINCE JAN 20). SINCE
THE GOA REFUSES TO NEGOTIATE WITH THEIR ERP CAPTORS THE
FATE OF THESE TWO ARMY OFFICERS IS VERY MUCH IN DOUBT.
HILL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, POLICE FORCES, BUSINESS FIRMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BUENOS01949
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740333/aaaabewh.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <05-Sep-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAMUELSON KIDNAPPING
TAGS: PINS, AR, US, EXXON, (SAMUELSON, VICTOR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005